

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 11, 2007, the applicants hereby elect Group I, namely claims 4-5 and 12-13, drawn to a process for synthesizing the biopolymers using a protective group having a general formula (I). It is noted that the Restriction Requirement is subject to the non-allowance of linking claims 1-3, 10-11 and 14-21. In view of this, and the indication of rejoinder if the linking claims are indicated allowable, it is believed unnecessary to traverse the Restriction Requirement at this time.

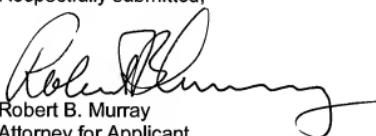
Claims 1-21 encompass the elected invention. The dependency of claim 22 has been corrected by the above amendment.

In response to the Election of Species requirement, as clarified by the Examiner's comments in paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the applicants elect nucleic acids as the biopolymer, the two stage protective group of figure II, wherein R¹ and R² are both hydrogen and the synthesis building block X is phosphoamidite, with the chemical treatment step being an acid treatment.

Early and favorable action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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